



# The New River Improvement Project



A Project of the California Mexico Border Relations Council and the City of Calexico

## Technical Advisory Committee Meeting

California Department of Toxic Substances Control  
El Centro Field Office  
627 Wake Ave.  
El Centro, 92243

Thursday, May 5, 2011  
2:00 PM

## DRAFT Meeting Notes

1. **Welcome and Introductions.** New River Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) Co-Chair Ricardo Martinez (Colorado River Basin Regional Water Quality Control Board) called the meeting to order. In attendance were the following committee members /designees/alternates: Logan Raub (Colorado River Basin Regional Water Quality Control Board), Al (Imperial County Farm Bureau), Miguel Figueroa (Calexico New River Committee), Antonio Ortega (Office of Assemblymember V. Manuel Perez), Steve Charlton (Imperial Irrigation District), Roger Vintze (Department of Toxic Substances Control, Imperial County CUPA), Andy Horne (County of Imperial). Participating by phone: Rebecca Little Owl (International Water and Boundary Commission), Russell Bartlett (California Department of Public Health), Abid Khalaf (Colorado River Basin Regional Water Quality Control Board), John McCaull (Consultant), Frank Gonzalez (Cal Trans), Daniel Garza (California Environmental Protection Agency), Jon Ballard (US General Services Administration), Jeong-Hee Kim (Colorado River Basin Regional Water Quality Control Board), Anna Morales (International Boundary and Water Commission, Yuma Office).
2. **TAC Chair Update.** Co-Chair Ricardo Martinez welcomed the TAC members and re-introduced Gene Crumley, Jeff Loux and Krista Sloniowski (UC Davis). Ricardo informed the TAC that Cal/EPA still does not have an appointed Secretary, but the New River Improvement Project remains one of the Agency's high priorities. Ricardo also reminded the TAC of the aggressive time line and was confident that the TAC would meet those deadlines.
3. **Progress Reports from Workgroups.**
  - a. **Impairments.** Presentation by Logan Raub (Colorado River Basin Regional Water Quality Control Board). Regional Waterboard staff has broken down the New River into four segments. The segments make it easier for staff to analyze data and prioritize impairments based on segments rather than the entirety of the river. Staff has created an extensive impairments list. Jon Ballard (USGSA) recommended several changes to the chart presented by the workgroup to improve clarity. Logan noted that they would make the changes. Logan also stated that Waterboard staff are still editing the

Impairments table and was unsure when the final table would be ready to be shared with the rest of the TAC. Roger Vitnze (DTSC) gave an update on the progress of the testing of the samples taken from the New River. DTSC staff have been sorting through the data trying to summarize results.

- b. **Remediation.** Steve Charlton (Co-Chair). There is still a lot of work that needs to be done. The Remediation workgroup will be holding another meeting Friday (May 6). Things are coming together. Steve is hopeful that the workgroup will be able to finish the narrative of their report at their next meeting.
- c. **Background and Funding.** Ricardo Martinez (Co-Chair). The workgroup is waiting for the results of the Impairments and Remediation workgroup reports. Ricardo conveyed that the workgroup needs prioritizations from the aforementioned groups to move forward. John McCaull updated that TAC on direction he received from Jose Angel on researching the legal ramifications of any remediation option.
- d. **Visioning.** Miguel Figueroa (Co-Chair). The visioning workgroup took the direction it received from the last TAC meeting.

#### 4. TAC Vision and Goals

- a. Jeff Loux (UC Davis). Briefly went over the timeline for producing a Strategic Plan and holding an informative symposium. Jeff notified the TAC that he has yet to receive any of the original documents from Nettleton Strategies. Ricardo Martinez (Cal/EPA) put forth the idea of having one over-arching vision for the entirety of the New River, but also having individual vision(s) for different segments of the river. Miguel Figueroa (Calexico New River Committee) noted that the Visioning workgroup will make it clear in their report that there are different visions for certain segments of the river.
- b. Ricardo Martinez (Cal/EPA) stated that his vision for the strategic plan is to produce a document that is easy to read, presents alternative remediation options, that can then be taken to different agencies to have them fund projects. Steve Charlton (IID) expressed that this is the approach the Remediation workgroup is taking. In some cases, there has been enough research done to associate a specific dollar amount to certain remediation projects.
- c. Jeff Loux presented a large draft poster of what they envision of producing, that can be used to present to potential funders.
- d. UC Davis will be reaching out to key members of each designated "segment" of the New River to conduct additional interviews in the coming week.

**5. Next Steps**

- a. Workgroups need to finish a draft version of their reports by the end of May and need to submit them to UC Davis.
- b. Any individual that needs to be interviewed by UC Davis needs to contact Tara (UC Davis).
- c. Next meeting May 18, 2011, from 2:00 PM to 5:00 PM.

**6. Adjournment**

- a. Meeting adjourned at 3:35 PM (PST).